



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE PATENT APPLICATION OF:

JOEL C. VANDERZEE AND
ROBERT M. SWANSON

U.S. SERIAL NO: UNKNOWN

GROUP: UNKNOWN

FILED: CONCURRENTLY

EXAMINER: UNKNOWN

FOR: MULTIPLE DEVICE COMMUNICATIONS

La Crosse, Wisconsin
December 15, 2000

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The following patents are enclosed and discussed to comply with the applicant's duty of disclosure.

U.S. Patent 5,323,385 to Jurewicz et al. is directed to a serial bus communications method in a refrigeration system. A controller area network protocol includes an end of frame field 68. This is a peer-to-peer protocol and not a round robin protocol as evidenced by the use of a descriptor expansion device (DEB) to arbitrate collisions. The end of file indicator does not cause a transfer to a new bus device controller.

U.S. Patent 5,831,848 to Rielly et al. is directed to a distributed environmental process control system. A primary network 101 interconnects a plurality of microprocessor based branch controllers in a peer-to-peer relationship. Each branch controller 103 issues commands

and receives responses from any other controller 103 on the primary network 101. The branch controllers 103 control the branch networks in a master-slave relationship including the control of a plurality of device controllers 107 such as airflow valve controllers. Each branch controller 103 communicates on the primary network only in an assigned time slot. Communication is determined by multiplying a time slot multiple by the branch controller address and adding this result to the gap time between the time slots. A synchronizing station node periodically issues a synchronizing signal to command each node to execute the branch network control sequence and to enable each node on the primary network to transport and receive.

As noted, the foregoing patents are submitted solely to comply with applicant's duty of disclosure and are not considered to be unusually relevant to the present invention.

Respectfully Submitted, ^



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